Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 04 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 05 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 03 Jan 2024 at 10:47

Confidence: High confidence for a change to colder, drier conditions over the weekend. Lower confidence in cloud details and mist and fog details on Thursday and Friday.

Headline for Thursday 04 Jan 2024: Dull with showers through the day, mist and fog slow to clear away, brighter by late afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 04 Jan 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
		MIST	MIST	MIST		MIST	FOG
Cloudy	Light rain	Mist	Mist	Mist	Cloudy	Mist	Fog
Precipitation probability							
30%	40%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 04 Jan 2024

Weather: Widespread mist and fog and low cloud will make for a dull day with a few showers of rain or drizzle on the fells. Mist and fog tending to lift and clear during the afternoon with a few brighter spells developing in the east, remaining mostly dry during the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% improving to 50% in the afternoon as mist and fog lifts and clears.

Low cloud and visibility: Layers of broken or overcast cloud above 200m in the morning with little chance of views, perhaps cloud more broken and slightly higher base around eastern fells. Visibility also very poor during the morning especially in light rain or drizzly showers, visibility becoming moderate or good during the afternoon. Cloud becoming more scattered and bases rising to 5-600m during the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 04 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	16/20 SW	15/18 SW	16/19 SW	16/19 SW	15/20 SW	13/17 SW	11/14 S	8/10 S	7/9 SW
600	13/18 SW	12/17 SW	13/18 SW	13/17 SW	13/18 SW	11/16 SW	9/12 S	7/9 S	5/8 SW
300	5/14 SW	5/14 SW	6/14 SW	6/14 SW	6/14 SW	5/13 SW	3/9 S	3/7 S	2/6 SW
Valley	5/14 W	6/15 SW	6/14 SW	6/14 SW	6/13 SW	5/11 SW	3/8 SW	3/7 S	2/5 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-4	1/-4	1/-4	1/-5	1/-5	0/-5	-0/-4	-0/-4	-0/-4
600	3/-1	3/-1	3/-1	3/-2	3/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-1	2/-1
300	5/3	5/3	5/3	4/2	5/3	5/2	4/2	4/2	3/2
Valley	7/6	7/5	7/5	7/5	7/5	7/6	6/5	6/5	6/5
Freezing Level*	1100m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1000m	1000m	900m	900m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Freezing level falling towards higher fells tops during the day with some showers turning wintery on the summits, feeling cold at height.

Forecast for Friday 05 Jan 2024

Weather: Mainly cloudy and feeling quite cold, damp and often dull, perhaps some early morning mist. The day will tend to brighten but there will be a few isolated showers which will be wintery above 800m.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 5mph veering Northwesterly 5-10mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% improving 70% during the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: In the morning layers of broken low cloud above 500m should be expected especially around western fells, cloud more scattered above 600m in the east with more chance of clear tops here. Visibility will be good but perhaps turning moderate or poor in a passing shower and very poor on higher fell tops in wintery showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 rising to 5 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 1 falling to Zero Celsius.
Freezing level: Around 800-900m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 3 January. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:25. Temperature: plus 1.9 degC. Maximum wind speed 8.7mph. Wind chill: minus 2.5 degC. Average wind speed: 6.6mph.

Full report: The majority of the Lakeland fells up to and including summit level are now clear of snow and ice. That said, above 800m, some snow remains in sheltered spots and hollows and particularly on steep north and east facing slopes. Where undisturbed, the snow was soft and slowly thawing. However, on popular routes it has been compacted into hard snow and ice creating treacherous conditions especially on steep and exposed terrain such as on the Helvellyn edges. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges consist of bare, wet, slippery rock. Their exits onto the summit plateau, however, are covered with snow some of which, especially on Swirral edge, had been compacted. Although only a short section, an ice axe and crampons or microspikes, are strongly recommended to safely negotiate this section especially in descent. Where this snow is located is not a place to slip without the means to stop yourself. The summit plateau was covered in a mixture of bare, wet ground, soft and wet snow, hard compacted snow, ice and slush – ie very mixed! The temperature around midday was just above freezing so it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the wet ground, slush etc to freeze so walkers attempting the highest peaks on Thursday should expect, and be prepared to encounter, more ice than described here. Small, weak cornices have formed above steep north and east facing slopes – most noticeably above Helvellyn's east face. There were boot and paw prints in this snow. The cornices are so weak that even a dog could cause them to collapse so please keep your canine friends away from the edge and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the mild valley temperatures, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 2 degrees C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 3 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. As mentioned, there is the possibility of more hard snow and ice forming at altitude overnight, so walkers out on the highest peaks on Thursday should consider adding microspikes to their rucksacks. If you need a response please email felltop.assessors@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Issued at: 1730 on Wed 03 Jan 2024

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